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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 42nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 31 July 1992, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. MROZIEWICZ (Poland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

REGIONAL COOPERATION (continued)

Report of the Economic Committee (E/1992/108)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the 10 draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 42 of the Economic Committee's report (E/1992/108).

Draft resolutions I to X were adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the seven draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 43 of the report.

Draft decisions I to VII were adopted.

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued)

Report of the Economic Committee (E/1992/109 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the three draft resolutions which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 25 of its report (E/1992/109).

Draft resolutions I to III were adopted.

Mr. AHMIA (Algeria), with reference to draft resolution II, recalled, for the record, the statement he had made on behalf of the littoral States of Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Tunisia on cooperation in fisheries in Africa.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft decision, which the Committee recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 26 of its report (E/1992/109).

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT then invited the Council to consider the report of the Economic Committee on the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, trade and

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(The President)

development, development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy and development of the energy resources of developing countries (E/1992/109/Add.1).

He invited the Council to consider the draft resolution recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 23 of the report.

The draft resolution was adopted.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the three draft decisions on agenda sub-items 12 (a), 12 (b) and 12 (g) respectively recommended for adoption by the Council in paragraph 24 of the report.

Draft decisions I to III were adopted.

PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER NATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN AND OTHER ARAB TERRITORIES (continued)

Report of the Economic Committee (E/1992/110)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft resolution in paragraph 14, which the Economic Committee was recommending for adoption by the Council, noting that the Committee had adopted it by a recorded vote of 47 to 2, with 3 abstentions.

Mr. SHAUKAT (Pakistan) said that his delegation wished to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. SCHIELE (United States of America) said that his delegation had voted against the draft resolution in the Committee and would do so again in the current meeting. It was well known that the United States regarded Israeli settlements in the territories concerned as an obstacle to peace; but it was for the parties concerned to negotiate a solution. There were encouraging signs in the current negotiations, which measures such as the draft resolution under consideration could only serve to hinder.

At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines,

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Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Somalia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia.

Against: Russian Federation, United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, Japan.

The draft resolution was adopted by 47 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the latter had consistently deemed Israeli settlements illegal under international law and a threat to peace. However, the Israeli Government's decision to halt further settlement was a positive step.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had no objection to the contents of the draft resolution, but felt that consideration of the text should have been postponed in order to avoid raising further obstacles on the eve of renewed negotiations on the situation in the occupied territories. The Russian Federation, as co-Chairman of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, was not in favour of taking a decision at the current time. His delegation, therefore, had voted against the draft resolution.

Mr. SAFAEI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, on the understanding that no wording which implied any recognition of Israel's right to be in the occupied Palestinian territories would be acceptable.

Ms. BEZEREDI (Canada) said that her delegation, while recognizing the sponsors' commendable efforts, had abstained during the vote, since the text made no reference to the current peace negotiations which were the most promising opportunity seen in decades for steps towards a lasting solution.

Mr. FRANCIS (Australia) said that his delegation had supported the draft resolution. It had noted, however, the recent moves by the Israeli Government with regard to settlements, which, although not amounting to a complete freeze, were a positive step.

Mr. HJELMAKER (Sweden) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution but would have welcomed a reference, in the text, to the current peace process and the Israeli Government's action to restrict further settlement.

Mr. JAAFARI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, had his delegation been present during the vote, it would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

Mr. DYOMIN (Belarus) said that, although his delegation supported the basic contents of the draft resolution, it would have preferred not to take a decision at the current session, in order to avoid creating any hindrance to the current negotiations aimed at improving the situation in the Middle East.

Mr. KOIKE (Japan) said that his delegation had abstained during the vote, since it believed that the General Assembly, not the Council, was the most appropriate forum for dealing with such a matter - the sort of point to be borne in mind in the context of the calls to rationalize the work of the Council. Had the draft resolution in question been submitted for adoption at the General Assembly, his delegation would have voted in favour of it.

Mr. CORNEILLE (Rwanda) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution. It nevertheless welcomed the recent positive political developments in the Middle East and felt that the innovative action by the Israeli Government, including the measures to restrict further settlement, gave grounds for optimism. In that regard, the Council, by voting in favour of the draft resolution, was surely helping to improve the political climate.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (continued)

Draft resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people (E/1992/L.35, L.38)

Ms. KELLY (Secretary of the Council) drew attention to the reference, in operative paragraph 9 on the draft resolution, to the possible convening of a seminar on assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory. The General Assembly, in resolution 46/74, had authorized the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to exert all efforts in the exercise of its mandate,

(Ms. Kelly)

including any measures, such as the convening of seminars, that it deemed necessary. A seminar of the sort suggested in operative paragraph 9 could be funded as part of the work programme of the Committee.

Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-President, announced that Malaysia and Suriname had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution and pointed out that the words "convening such a seminar" in paragraph 9 should be followed by a comma and the words "taking into account the assistance needs of the Palestinian people in the light of developments in the region;".

Mr. TENNE (Observer for Israel) said that, earlier in the debate, he had spoken about conditions in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza. The situation of the inhabitants of those territories was being constantly improved; for example, the United Nations Development Programme, in the report contained in document A/47/212, had remarked on the pace of improvements. But the sponsors of the current draft resolution merely perpetuated their annual ritual, focusing solely on the intifadah and seeing nothing in the situation but "restrictions". The United States Assistant Secretary of State, addressing the Council during the high-level segment of the current session, had deplored the Council's tendency to waste time on polemics. The proposals contained in the current draft resolution would do nothing at all to further the cause of the Palestinians. It seemed that the latter, in the view of the sponsors, depended on the holding of yet another seminar, an activity which could hardly warrant using scarce United Nations resources at a time of so many pressing needs throughout the world.

At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/1992/L.35.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda,

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Somalia, Spain, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Russian Federation.

Draft resolution E/1992/L.35 was adopted by 52 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom), speaking in explanation of vote on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve had voted in favour of the draft resolution; it was their understanding, however, that the sixth preambular paragraph referred to the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories.

The European Community had provided and would continue to provide substantial humanitarian and economic assistance to the Palestinian people. Direct aid had increased by 20 per cent in 1992, and additional emergency assistance totalling 60 million ECU, or approximately \$70 million, had been granted to the population of the occupied territories following the Gulf crisis. With regard to paragraph 3 of the resolution, the Twelve stipulated that Community assistance would, as in the past, be channelled through the competent organizations of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations.

With regard to paragraph 5, the Twelve had adopted autonomous tariff arrangements which included duty-free access for industrial products and preferential treatment for certain agricultural products from the occupied territories. The Community had recognized the West Bank and Gaza Strip Chambers of Commerce as authorities qualified to issue certificates of origin and to ensure the necessary administrative cooperation. In their discussions with the Israeli authorities, the Twelve had repeatedly stressed the importance which they attached to the implementation of the Community's trade measures, and their opposition to any administrative or other obstacles to Palestinian exports.

The Twelve interpreted paragraph 8 as referring to the establishment of a network of local banks in the occupied territories.

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(Mr. Barnett, United Kingdom)

With regard to the convening of a seminar, as referred to in paragraph 9, the Twelve hoped that any such seminar would take due account of the peace process and would not place any obstacles in the way of the multilateral working group on regional economic development.

Mr. MARKS (United States of America) said that his country's support for humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people was shown by its contributions to UNRWA. The United States was the largest single donor to that organization; its contributions had totalled \$63.3 million in 1991, and would exceed that amount in 1992. Since 1975, the United States had maintained the largest single programme of direct aid to the territories. In 1989, it had made \$22 million available to private voluntary organizations for the purpose of improving health conditions, developing infrastructure and promoting education for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition, basic food commodities had been distributed to 96,000 residents of the occupied territories.

His delegation had voted against the draft resolution because the latter did not accurately reflect the current situation in the territories or the ongoing peace process. The draft resolution proposed impractical and unacceptable solutions to problems in the territories, such as the suggestion in paragraph 3 that the international community should provide assistance to the Palestinian people in "close cooperation" with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). His Government urged the Council instead to consider practical and workable means of increasing investment, employment, production and income opportunities in the occupied territories.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation had abstained during the vote. While the Russian Federation supported the draft resolution's emphasis on continued assistance to the Palestinian people, it believed, as co-Chairman of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, that the timing of the decision was wrong, especially in view of the resolution's highly politicized language. Noting that the text of the resolution was essentially the same as that of the previous year's draft resolution on the subject, he recalled that, at the previous session, the

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(Mr. Kudryavtsev, Russian Federation)

members of the Council had been willing to postpone their decision until the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly; he would have preferred for the Council to take a similar approach at the current session.

Mr. KOIKE (Japan) said that his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, and that Japan had made every effort to extend assistance to them and to the peace process in the region. While his Government supported the convening of a seminar, as referred to in paragraph 9, it wished to emphasize that assistance to the Palestinian people should not be viewed as separate from the ongoing peace process, and that the activities of the respective multilateral working groups which were part of that process must be taken into account.

Ms. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, which dealt with an important issue. With regard to paragraph 5, she drew attention to the fact that under existing Austrian legislation, Palestinian certificates of origin could not be accepted. Exports from the occupied Palestinian territories were, however, given preferential customs treatment.

Mr. HJELMAKER (Sweden) said that, while his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, with regard to paragraph 9, it believed that the ongoing peace process was the appropriate forum in which to address the needs for assistance to the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Ms. KORPI (Finland) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution, as it continued to support assistance to the Palestinian people. Nevertheless, her Government had reservations on the question of imports to and exports from the occupied Palestinian territories and the relevant certificates of origin; had a separate vote been taken on paragraphs 4 and 5, Finland would have abstained.

Mr. SAFAEI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, as his delegation was fully committed to the advancement of the Palestinian cause, it had supported the draft resolution, despite its reservations about the use of the term "Gulf" in that document. The historically correct name of the region concerned was, as recognized by the United Nations, "Persian Gulf".

Mr. MARKS (United States of America), speaking on a point of order, said it was his understanding that the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic had asked for the floor during the current discussion. Noting that the Syrian Arab Republic was a sponsor of the draft resolution just adopted, he drew attention to rule 62 of the Council's rules of procedure, which provided that the representative of a Member State sponsoring a proposal could not speak in explanation of vote thereon, unless the proposal had been amended.

Mr. STOBY (Director of Economic and Social Council Affairs and the Inter-Agency Coordination Division) said that it was his understanding that the Vice-President of the Council, in introducing the draft resolution, had made amendments to it; under rule 62, therefore, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic would be entitled to explain his vote.

Mr. JAAFARI (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the Israeli representative had accused the United Nations of sponsoring terrorism by adopting the draft resolution, which had been supported by a large majority. That was an insult to the international community and the international legal order to which Israel owed its legitimacy. The Israeli representative's use of such terms as Judaea and Samaria in referring to the occupied territories was intended to give the impression that the Israeli occupation was a natural phenomenon. Israel believed that it alone could make the rules and that it should not be called to account by the international community for such actions as establishing settlements and destroying mosques and holy places. The move towards peace was based solely on the legal recognition of Security Council resolutions 238 (1967) and 242 (1967) and had no other basis. He expressed appreciation to those countries which had voted for legality, and the hope that substantial assistance would be granted to the Palestinian people. In order to meet the needs of the Palestinian people fully, it would be necessary to put an end to the Israeli occupation.

Draft resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/1992/L.38)

The PRESIDENT said he had been informed by the Secretariat that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications. It was his understanding that the informal consultations held on the draft resolution had not led to a consensus.

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Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-President, said that Trinidad and Tobago had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution. During the informal consultations, the sponsors had agreed to make a number of amendments to the text with a view to resolving differences. Nevertheless, one delegation had requested a recorded vote, which meant that the effort to reach consensus had failed. Accordingly, the sponsors wished to put to a vote the text which they had originally submitted, with only two minor amendments.

Mr. WHANNOU (Benin) proposed the following amendments on behalf of the sponsors. In the third preambular paragraph, the words "Assembly resolution 46/65 of 11 December 1991 and" should be deleted, and in the eighth preambular paragraph, the term "Non-Self-Governing" should be inserted before the words "small island Territories".

Mr. LIMON (Suriname) and Mr. SAFAEI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that their delegations had joined the list of sponsors.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve reaffirmed their strong support for all efforts to eliminate colonialism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and their unwavering commitment to the right to self-determination of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Twelve supported the efforts of the specialized agencies to provide humanitarian, technical and educational assistance to the people in those Territories, while emphasizing that the autonomy and the mandates of the specialized agencies must be respected.

The Twelve reaffirmed their opposition to the continued reference to South Africa in the context of decolonization. Such a reference was inappropriate and did not take into account the positive developments which had taken place in South Africa; furthermore, the proposed wording was at variance with the consensus language adopted by the General Assembly under the appropriate agenda items. For those reasons, the Twelve were unable to support the draft resolution.

A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution E/1992/L.38.

In favour: Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Somalia, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Zaire.

Against: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Finland, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden.

Draft resolution E/1992/L.38, as orally amended, was adopted by 35 votes to 11, with 8 abstentions.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation), speaking in explanation of vote, said that his delegation would undoubtedly have found it possible to support those provisions of the draft resolution which were directly linked to the question of decolonization, an issue which still remained on the Organization's agenda. His country supported coordinated action to overcome the vestiges of colonialism wherever they existed and welcomed the efforts to reach a consensus on all areas of the Council's work. However, a number of the resolution's provisions were excessively politicized and did not take into account the changes occurring in the world; in particular, his delegation could not accept the references to apartheid as drafted. It was to be hoped that, in the future, the Council would be able to adopt an approach to the issue on the basis of consensus; that would, of course, require greater political will on all sides.

Mr. FRANCIS (Australia) said that his delegation, which had abstained during the vote, was of the view that the draft resolution would have had greater relevance had it been drafted in the same terms as Security Council resolution 765 (1992). In view of the roles of the Special Committee on decolonization and the Fourth Committee, the Council should not be dealing with the question of decolonization.

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Draft resolution on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States (E/1992/L.37)

The PRESIDENT said that he had been informed by the Secretariat that the draft resolution involved no programme budget implications.

Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco), Vice-President, said that in the course of informal consultations the sponsors of the draft resolution had agreed to amend paragraph 2 by adding the words "closely consulted and" before "actively associated with" and to delete the words "and as far as possible properly represented on". He announced that Malaysia had joined the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. STOBY (Director, Economic and Social Affairs and Inter-Agency Coordination Division) said that the Secretariat welcomed the amendment, which effectively addressed its concerns.

Mr. SERGIWA (Observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation wished to be deleted from the list of sponsors of the draft resolution.

Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) said that his delegation wished to join the list of sponsors.

Draft resolution E/1992/L.37, as orally amended, was adopted.

Mr. BARNETT (United Kingdom) said that his delegation had participated in the consensus on the draft resolution, but that it wished to stress that the resolution should be implemented from existing budgetary resources.

SPECIAL ECONOMIC, HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER-RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)
Draft resolutions on assistance to Yemen (E/1992/L.33 and L.41)

The SECRETARY drew the Council's attention to an error in the text of draft resolution E/1992/L.41. The resolution had been submitted by Mr. Guerrero (Philippines) and not by Mr. Amaziane (Morocco) as was stated in the text that had been circulated.

Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-President, introduced draft resolution E/1992/L.41, which he was submitting on the basis of the informal consultations held on draft resolution E/1992/L.33. He hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution E/1992/L.41 was adopted.

Draft resolution E/1992/L.33 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

Mr. MUTHANA (Observer for Yemen) expressed his delegation's deep appreciation for the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution, and particularly to the representative of the Philippines, who had conducted the negotiations on the text.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COUNCIL (continued)

Draft resolution on the establishment of new subsidiary bodies of the Council (E/1992/L.40)

Draft resolution E/1992/L.40 was adopted.

COORDINATION OF THE POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM (continued)

The PRESIDENT suggested that the Council should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on policies and activities relating to assistance in the eradication of poverty and support to vulnerable groups, including assistance during the implementation of structural adjustment programmes (E/1992/47), and of the Secretary-General's report on policies and activities relating to the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and programmes addressed to the mitigation of its negative social-economic consequences (E/1992/67).

It was so decided.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council should take note of the following documents: the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the operational activities of the United Nations system, including the governance and financing aspects thereof (E/1992/64); the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme (E/1992/28); the report of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes (E/1992/73); the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/1992/29); and the

(The President)

report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 45/217 on the World Summit for Children (A/47/264-E/1992/71).

It was so decided.

REPORTS OF THE COORDINATION BODIES

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council take note of the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) on its thirty-second session (A/47/16, Part I) and endorse the recommendations contained therein. He also proposed that the Council take note of the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991 (E/1992/11 and Add.1 and 2) and of the reports of the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Administrative Committee on Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the joint meetings of the two Committees (E/1991/143).

It was so decided.

REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued)

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/1992/86.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (continued)

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council take note of the report of the High Commissioner for Refugees (A/47/12 and Add.1).

It was so decided.

ELECTIONS (continued)

The PRESIDENT recalled that it was the customary practice for the terms of office of membership of Economic and Social Council bodies to be staggered for the initial period in order to avoid a situation in which the entire membership of a given body retired at the same time. The Council would therefore need to draw lots for the initial term of membership for elected members once all vacancies in the three bodies had been filled. He expected that the drawing of lots for that purpose would take place at the organizational session of the Council in 1993 for the first meetings of the bodies concerned.

Committee on Natural Resources (E/1992/114/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed of additional experts nominated by their Governments for vacancies remaining in the groups of African States, Asian States and Latin American and Caribbean States. The names of the experts and their curricula vitae were contained in document E/1992/114/Add.1.

Since the number of candidates was less than or equal to the number of vacancies for each group, he would assume that the Council wished to elect Regis Percy Arslanian (Brazil), Patricio Jerez (Nicaragua), Lukabu Khabouji N'Zaji (Zaire), Aldo Truccio (Argentina) and Zhang Hai-Lun (China) by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (E/1992/115/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT said that the Secretariat had been informed of additional experts nominated by their Governments for vacancies remaining in the groups of African States, Asian States and Latin American and the Caribbean States. The names of the experts and their curricula vitae were contained in document E/1992/115/Add.1. The representative of Saudi Arabia had proposed the additional candidature of Mr. Al-Sabban, whose curriculum vitae had been distributed in the Council.

Since the number of candidates from those groups was less than, or equal to, the number of vacancies for those groups, he would take it that the Council wished to elect Marcelino K. Actouka (Micronesia), Mohammad Al Ramadhan (Kuwait), José Luis Bozzo (Uruguay), Christian Atoki Iлека (Zaire), E. V. R. Sastry (India), Zhang Guocheng (China) and Mr. Al-Sabban (Saudi Arabia) by acclamation.

It was so decided.

Mr. RAKOTONAIVO (Madagascar) said that the African Group would be submitting a candidate from Nigeria in due course.

The PRESIDENT said that the Committee took due note of the proposed candidature.

STATEMENT BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. JI CHAOZHU (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development) said that at a time of major political and economic change throughout the world, the need to strengthen the role of the United Nations not only in conflict resolution and peace-keeping, but also in addressing the economic and social plight of the majority of the world's peoples, particularly those in developing countries, had never been more compelling. Every effort must be made to close the widening gap between the more affluent and the less developed countries.

The current session of the Council had been one of the most productive in recent years. The new format of the Council, in particular, its high-level segment, had facilitated the beginning of a constructive dialogue on the ways and means to improve the structure of the United Nations system in order to enable it to serve the cause of development.

The decision to establish an ad hoc open-ended working group of the Council to hold consultations and prepare recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on measures to enhance international cooperation for development represented a significant step in strengthening the impact of the work of the Council. He assured the Council of the Secretariat's readiness to assist the working group.

After highlighting a number of major issues discussed during the current session, he said that he wished to focus on several considerations which should be borne in mind as the working group began its deliberations. Firstly, operational activities were significantly enhanced when supported by sound research and analysis of global and sectoral developments and policies, and such research and analysis were more relevant when based on information derived from technical cooperation experience in the field. The assessment of the Council's needs in those areas might affect both the future structure of the Council and the nature of the Secretariat structures servicing it.

Secondly, since the objective of long-term development was to improve the standard of living and quality of life for people, development must be socially and ecologically sustainable. Member States would have to define more clearly the relationship of the new Commission for Sustainable

(Mr. Ji Chaozhu)

Development to other subsidiary bodies of the Council. The new reality that development must be socially and ecologically sustainable must be reflected in the terms of reference of the Commission and the Secretariat arrangements to be established to service it.

Thirdly, the primary consideration in future decisions on the revitalization process in the economic and social sectors should be the further rationalization of the work of the United Nations system and the adjustment of its structures to maximize the work of the Organization in those sectors and to provide for a flexible response to changing rules.

Lastly, the Council also should consider possible modalities for ensuring the more effective harmonization and integration of certain issues and aspects of work in the economic and social sectors in support of preventive diplomacy, peace building and peace-keeping, in the light of the views conveyed by the Secretary-General in that regard to the Security Council and to the Economic and Social Council at its current session.

SUSPENSION OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1992

Following an exchange of courtesies, the PRESIDENT declared the substantive session of 1992 suspended.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.